

**Minutes**  
**Mansfield Advisory Committee**  
**On the Needs of Persons with Disabilities**  
**June 26, 2012**

Present: Gloria Bent, Christina Colon Semenza, Wade Gibbs, Stephanie Holinko, Staff: Kathy Easley, Kevin Grunwald

Regrets: Jane Blanshard, Fred Goetz, Jennifer Tanner

I. Call to order

In the absence of both the chair and vice-chair the meeting was facilitated by K. Grunwald and called to order at 2:35 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes for May 22, 2012.

The minutes of 5/22/12 were reviewed and approved as presented. (Moved S. Holinko, seconded G. Bent)

III. New Business

The committee agreed to G. Bent's request for the addition of the Mansfield Advocates for Children's Community Playground project to the agenda. C. Colon-Semenza presented background information on the history of the MAC project. G. Bent noted that of the five playgrounds in town, three are over 20 years old, four have wood chips as their base and therefore meet only minimal disability standards and none of them are accessible via public transportation. She presented a draft letter to the Town Council in support of the new playground to be constructed behind the community center. This playground will meet higher accessibility standards and be accessible by public transportation. G. Bent moved that MACNPD send the letter of support

for the MAC Community Playground project to Town Council. (Seconded by C. Colon Semenza) Motion Approved.

#### IV. Old Business

##### Membership:

W. Gibbs announced his acceptance of a new position in West Hartford, which will not allow him to attend afternoon meetings. The committee noted his service with thanks.

S. Holinko noted that her class schedule for fall also creates a conflict. She will return in the spring when her schedule permits.

A general discussion of potential members followed and current members took responsibility for contacting those identified.

#### V. Accessibility issues previously identified:

##### Post Office

We have no response from the letter sent to Rep. Courtney yet. C. Colon Semanza noted that J. Tanner was part of a discussion panel on disability culture and local challenges at a UConn class in physical therapy. The students generated several ideas for raising awareness of the issue.

##### Ramp at Margaritaville

At a previous meeting J. Blanshard raised a concern brought to her about the safety of the ramp at Chuck's Margaritaville. Kevin reported the concern to town building inspectors. Their examination revealed no issues.

##### Transportation

The letter to the Transportation Advisory Committee approved at the last meeting has also been endorsed by

Mansfield Advocates for Children and the Commission on Aging. The letter has been sent to the Transportation Committee and cc'd to Town Council.

#### VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Next meeting September 25, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gloria Bent, secretary